



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0022

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

July 1, 2013

Mr. Tom Hatfield
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 5661
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

RE: Freedom of Access Request for Records

Dear Mr. Hatfield:

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) acknowledges receipt of your follow up Freedom of Access Act request which was dated May 21, 2013 and received by this Department on June 6, 2013. DACF is reviewing your request.

Maine's Freedom of Access Act authorizes agencies to charge photocopying costs and staff time for responding to Freedom of Access Act requests. We estimate that the cost of responding to your request will be \$205.75, which represents fourteen hours of staff time at \$15 per hour, plus 100 pages of photocopies at the rate of \$1.00 for the first page and \$.25 for every page thereafter. We request that you submit a check made out to "Treasurer, State of Maine", in the amount of \$205.75. Upon receipt of your payment, we will compile DACF's response. If you choose to narrow the scope of your request, please let us know what records you are requesting, and we will provide you with a new estimate for our response.

For your information, Maine law requires that agencies respond to Freedom of Access Act requests within "a reasonable time", not within 10 business days as stated in your request.

If you prefer that we email documents to you, please provide us with your email address.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 207-287-4909.

Sincerely,

Mari Wells-Eagar, Esq.
Assistant to the Commissioner
Legislative Liaison
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022